



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

MARK S. RUBIN COUNTY ATTORNEY

# NEWS RELEASE

June 17, 2011

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Duluth, MN 218-726-2323

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

St. Louis County Attorney **Mark S. Rubin** would like to announce the phased retirement of **Barb Russ**, Head of the Civil Division and valued member of the office for 32 years. On November 19, 1979, she was hired as a juvenile prosecutor. She worked in that capacity for two years before transferring to the civil division. Barb has been the County Attorney's Head of the Civil Division for the last 5 years.

County Attorney Rubin is pleased to announce the appointment of **Tim Lee** to the Head of the Civil Division position. Tim was hired in 1988 and has been working in the Civil Division of the St. Louis County Attorney's Office for the past 23 years. Prior to his work with the St. Louis County Attorney, Tim worked for 11 years in both government and private practice.

The Civil Division of the County Attorney's Office currently has 6 attorneys. The Civil Division represents St. Louis County and its departments in litigation matters, and provides legal advice and document drafting for the county. The work of the division includes a wide array of legal issues from negligence claims, land use and environmental enforcement, employment law, property tax appeals, civil forfeitures, eminent domain, tax forfeited land, and other municipal liability matters, and more. They appear in all levels of State Courts, Federal District Court, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Workers' Compensation Court, and Tax Court.

The other members of the newly appointed Leadership Team are:

**Gary Bjorklund**, Criminal Division Head, currently oversees the 13 adult criminal prosecutors that work in Duluth, Virginia, and Hibbing offices. The Criminal Division charges and prosecutes all levels of criminal offenses within St. Louis County from felonies, gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors, and county ordinance violations. Gary brings over 25 years of experience in both the civil and criminal divisions.

☐ DULUTH COURTHOUSE  
100 N. FIFTH AVE. W., #501  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802  
218-726-2323

☐ GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER  
320 W. SECOND ST., #403  
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802  
218-726-2034

☐ VIRGINIA COURTHOUSE  
300 S. FIFTH AVE., #222  
VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA 55792  
218-749-7101

☐ HIBBING COURTHOUSE  
1810 TWELFTH AVE. E., #107  
HIBBING, MINNESOTA 55746  
218-262-0158

**Patricia Shaffer**, Public Health and Human Services Division Head, oversees the 11 attorneys and 3 investigators in this division who provide protection and services for vulnerable adults, child protection, as well as child support and paternity services. This division also charges and prosecutes juvenile cases for crimes committed by those under 18 years old. Patricia has over 13 years of experience in the PHHS division.

**Wade Backstrom**, Office Administrator for the County Attorney's Office, prepares and oversees the annual budget and finances for the County Attorney's Office and oversees the 25 person support staff employed in the County Attorney's four offices. Wade brings over 12 years of both government and private experience in administration.

**Patty Wheeler**, Director of Victim/Witness Programs, supervises 4 victim/witness staff members in the County Attorney's four offices. Patty and her staff ensure compliance with the MN Crime Victim Rights laws and assist with restitution, other resources, and assist crime victims throughout the criminal justice process. Patty has deep roots in victim rights services going back 28 years.

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